

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-07 OES-09 SOE-02 DODE-00  
SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05 SAS-02 H-02 PA-02  
ICA-20 /135 W  
-----079644 111758Z /43

R 111151Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3796  
INFO DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC

UNCLAS CARACAS 8533

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ENRG VE  
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON VENEZUELAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED TELEX DATED SEP.2 FROM NUS CORPORATION, 4  
RESEARCH PL., ROCKVILLE, MD. (TWX 710-828-0540) ASKING THAT WE PROVID  
E  
UNCLAS INFORMATION ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF VENEZUELA'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM  
TO ASSIST NUS IN COMPLETING WORK FOR DEPT OF ENERGY UNDER ANL SUB-  
CONTRACT ON "WENDS" PROJECT. TELEX SAID THAT INFO WAS REQUIRED BY  
SEPT.10.

2. GIVEN NATURE AND TIMING OF REQUEST, EMBASSY IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE  
COMPLETE INFO ON ALL AREAS SPECIFIED BY NUS. HOWEVER, FOLLOWING  
READILY AVAILABLE UNCLASSIFIED BUT POSSIBLE INCOMPLETE INFO, KEYED  
TO FIVE AREAS LISTED IN TELEX, MAY BE PROVIDED TO NUS IF WASHINGTON  
AGENCIES HAVE NO OBJECTION.  
AREA 1-URANIUM RESOURCES, EXPLORATION, AND R&D-CONAN (SEE BELOW) IS  
PRESENTLY CONDUCTING EXTENSIVE EXPLORATION WORK TO DETERMINE THE  
EXTENT OF VENEZUELA'S URANIUM RESOURCES. WE KNOW OF NO OFFICIAL  
ESTIMATES OF URANIUM RESOURCES,  
BUT PRESS REPORTS HAVE ANNOUNCED  
DISCOVERIES BY CONAN FROM TIME TO TIME, AND THERE ARE NUMEROUS  
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GEOLOGICALLY PROMISING AREAS IN THE COUNTRY. BUDGET INFORMATION IS  
NOT AVAILABLE ON THESE ACTIVITIES, BUT A CONAN OFFICIAL HAS REPORTEDL  
Y  
PRESENTED A PLAN FOR URANIUM EXPLORATION WICH WOULD INVOLVE THE  
EXPENDITURE OF ABOVE \$9MILLION OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

AREA2-PLANS FOR COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR PLANTS-THERE ARE NO FIRM PLANS TO

OUR KNOWLEDGE FOR THE INSTALLATION OF COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR PLANTS IN VENEZUELA, ALTHOUGH PLANS FOR ONE OR MORE SUCH PLANTS OVER THE NEXT TEN TO TWENTY YEARS APPARENTLY HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED BY SOME SECTORS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

AREA3- TYPES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF ANY CURRENT OR PLANNED RESEARCH REACTORS-VENEZUELA HAS ONE OPERATING NUCLEAR REACTOR, THE RV-1, WHICH IS A 3000 KW POOL TYPE REACTOR BUILT BY GENERAL ELECTRIC. INAUGURATED IN 1960, THE RV-1 IS OPERATED BY IVIC (SEE BELOW) AND IS USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR RESEARCH.

AREA 4- GENERAL ASPECTS OF NUCLEAR R&D, BUDGETS, AND NAMES OF COGNIZANT ORGANIZATION--CURRENT NUCLEAR RESEARCH PROGRAMS INCLUDE ANALYSIS OF PETROLEUM AND URANIUM ORE SAMPLES AND OTHER RADIO CHEMISTRY WORK, ALL USING THE RV-1 REACTOR, PLUS AGRICULTURAL AND MEDICAL RESEARCH. INFO ON NUCLEAR R&D BUDGETS IS NOT READILY AVAILABLE. THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY (CONSEJO NACIONAL DE DESARROLLO DE LA INDUSTRIA NUCLEAR-CONAN) IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANALYZING AND ENCOURAGING THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY OF THE NATION'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT. IT IS HEADED BY ADMIRAL JESUS TABORDA. OPERATION OF THE RV-1 REACTOR, AND THUS MOST NUCLEAR R&D, IS CONCENTRATED IN THE VENEZUELAN INSTITUTE FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (INSTITUTO VENEZOLANO DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS-IVIC).  
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KEY PERSONNEL AT IVIC INCLUDES DR.LUIS CARBONELL, DIRECTOR, DR. ROMER NAVA, SUB-DIRECTOR AND DR. JUAN HERNANDEZ, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE RV-1 REACTOR.

AREA5-PERTINENT DOCUMENTS-OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONAN HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE DEPT UNDER COVER OF CA  
ACAS A-95 OF JUNE 5,1975 AND  
A-158 OF DECEMBER 3,1976.

3. THE EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT INPUTS TO THE NUS STUDY ARE ALSO BEING PROVIDED BY DOE AND USGS PERSONNEL FAMILIAR WITH VENEZUELAN NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING MR.A.NELSON TARDIFF, DOE AND ROBERT V. LANEY, ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY.  
CROWLEY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INFORMATION EXCHANGE, NUCLEAR ENERGY, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**SAS ID:** 1489380  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON VENEZUELAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM  
**TAGS:** ENRG, VE, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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20 Mar 2014  
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